(b) BCCL is not mining coal in unauthorized manner in any of its mine. No incident of new mine fire took place during the last one year.

Import of coal

†770. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal was imported in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantity of coal imported in the country during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 separately;

(c) whether the need for import of coal arose due to non-fulfilment of demand of coal from indigenous production; and

(d) if not, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of coal imported in the country during the last three years is as under:

(Quantity in Million tonnes)

Year	Coking	Non-coking	Total
1999-2000	10.99	8.71	19.70
2000-2001	11.06	9.87	20.93
2001-2002	11.11	9.44	20.55

(c) and (d) Consumers are importing coal, particularly coking coal and superior quality of non-coking coal, on account of inadequate availability of such coals from indigenous sources. Import of coal is also resorted to because the present level of customs duty and railway freight structure make such imports cost competitive per unit of calorific value on certain locations.

Some consumers like cement plants and thermal power stations located near the coastal regions resort to coal import mainly on account

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of quality and because such imports are cheaper at the coastal region. In addition, steel plants are importing coking coal to (i) bridge the gap between requirement and indigenous availability of coking coal of the required quality and (ii) to improve the quality of overall blend for technical reasons for improving performance of blast furnace.

Export of ALH

771. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is exporting the indigenously developed Advanced Light Helicopter;

(b) if so, the countries where it is being exported; and

(c) the annual production of ALH by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Preliminary discussions of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with some potential customers have been held. However, no exports of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Dhruv, have yet taken place.

(c) During 2001-02, HAL produced seven ALH for Defence Forces and the Coast Guard. During 2002-03, HAL have planned production of eleven ALH for customers within India.

Construction of houses for Defence personnel

772. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has proposed construction of dwelling units for Defence personnel;

(b) if so, whether such dwelling units would be for the benefit of ex-personnel of Defence also and on ownership basis;

(c) if so, whether any construction is proposed to take place in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?